

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Counting on Change



Counting on Change

Subject: Math

Grade Level: 3-5

Summary: Students will collect and sort dimes in ascending order of dates, and research key events in history that relate to each date.

BIG QUESTIONS

What are key events that relate to the date on dimes?

TIMING

45 to 50 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will research and identify key events in U.S. history.
- Students will learn to create a timeline and show a sequence of events.
- Students will learn to organize information.

MATERIALS

- Dimes (10 per student)
- Writing paper
- Pens/pencils
- Tape

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PROCEDURE

1. Ask students to collect 10 dimes – each with different date.
2. Have students create a “date sheet” for each dime and tape or attach the corresponding dime to the data sheet.
3. Students will sort the date sheets in chronological order.
4. Have students research events in U.S. history for each year on their date sheets.
5. On each date sheet, students will write about a key event, explaining its historical significance.
6. Collect the date sheets from students. Post the sheets in chronological order around the classroom, creating a timeline of U.S. history.

Note: if your class has access to software programs such as PowerPoint, you could have students use the program(s) to create more polished date sheets.

ASSESSMENT

Use the date sheets to assess whether students used reference materials effectively to research key events and place information correctly in chronological order.

DIFFERENTIATE

- Allow students to work independently or in small groups.
- Ask students to explain events and give supporting facts.

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